

What is claimed is:

1. In an electrical connector of the type having a body which supports a number of electrical contacts each having a proximal end configured for electrical and mechanical engagement to a device, the improvement characterized as the electrical connector further comprising a strain relief clip retained by the body of the electrical connector and configured for attachment to the device using a solder connection to relieve strain forces upon the electrical contacts after installation of the electrical connector onto the device.
2. The improvement of claim 1, wherein the strain relief clip comprises a base retained by the body of the electrical connector and a cantilevered arm which projects from the body, the arm configured to pressingly engage a solder pad on the device to accommodate the solder connection therebetween.
3. The improvement of claim 2, wherein the number of electrical contacts and the arm are oriented to substantially project in a first direction toward the device, and wherein a width of the arm along a second direction normal to the first direction is substantially greater than a width of each of the number of electrical contacts along said second direction.
4. The improvement of claim 1, wherein the proximal end of each of the electrical contacts is configured for attachment to the device using a solder connection.
5. The improvement of claim 1, wherein the device comprises a printed circuit board (PCB).
6. The improvement of claim 5, wherein the electrical connector comprises an edge connector so that a first portion of the electrical contacts engage a first side of the PCB and a second portion of the electrical contacts engage a second, opposing side of the PCB.

7. The improvement of claim 6, wherein the strain relief clip has a substantially u-shaped construction comprising a base retained by the body of the electrical connector and a pair of opposing cantilevered arms which project from the body, the arms configured to pressingly engage respective solder pads on the
5 opposing first and second sides of the PCB to accommodate respective solder connections between the solder pads and the arms.

8. The improvement of claim 1, wherein the electrical connector further includes an internal conductive grounding plane member and wherein the
10 strain relief clip is electrically connected to said member so that, upon installation of the electrical connector onto the device, the strain relief clip establishes contact with the device prior to contact between the number of electrical contacts and the device, thereby establishing a discharge path for electrical charge between the device and the connector prior to contact between the electrical contacts and the
15 device.

9. The improvement of claim 1, wherein the device comprises a printed circuit board (PCB) of a disc drive data storage device, and wherein the electrical connector comprises a primary interface connector configured to
20 establish a data transfer path with a host computer with which the disc drive data storage device is associated.

10. An electrical connector, comprising:
a body;
a number of electrical contacts each having a proximal end configured for
electrical and mechanical engagement to a device; and
5 first means for relieving strain forces upon the electrical contacts after
installation of the electrical connector onto the device.

11. The electrical connector of claim 10, wherein the first means further
includes means for establishing an advanced ground control path for the electrical
10 connector.

12. A method for providing strain relief for an electrical connector,
comprising:

providing an electrical connector with a body which supports a number of
electrical contacts each having a proximal end configured for
5 electrical and mechanical engagement to a device; and

inserting a strain relief clip into an associated recess in the body, the strain
relief clip configured for attachment to the device using a solder
connection to relieve strain forces upon the electrical contacts.

10 13. The method of claim 12, further comprising a subsequent step of
installing the electrical connector onto the device.

14. The method of claim 13, wherein the installing step comprises
subjecting the device and the electrical connector to a soldering operation so that
15 the proximal end of each of the electrical contacts and the strain relief clip are
respectively attached to the device using respective solder connections.

15. The method of claim 14, wherein the device to which the electrical
connector is attached during the installing step comprises a printed circuit board
20 (PCB).

16. The method of claim 15, wherein the PCB of the installing step
comprises a disc drive data storage device PCB, and wherein the electrical
connector of the providing step comprises a primary interface connector
25 configured to establish a data transfer path with a host computer with which the
disc drive data storage device is associated.

17. The method of claim 12, wherein the strain relief clip of the
inserting step comprises a base retained by the body of the electrical connector and
30 a cantilevered arm which projects from the body, the arm configured to pressingly
engage a solder pad on the device to accommodate the solder connection
therebetween.

18. The method of claim 17, wherein the number of electrical contacts of the providing step and the arm of the inserting step are oriented to substantially project in a first direction toward the device, and wherein a width of the arm along a second direction normal to the first direction is substantially greater than a width of each of the number of electrical contacts along said second direction.

19. The improvement of claim 5, wherein the electrical connector comprises an edge connector so that a first portion of the electrical contacts engage a first side of the PCB and a second portion of the electrical contacts engage a second, opposing side of the PCB.

20. The improvement of claim 6, wherein the strain relief clip has a substantially u-shaped construction comprising a base retained by the body of the electrical connector and a pair of opposing cantilevered arms which project from the body, the arms configured to pressingly engage respective solder pads on the opposing first and second sides of the PCB to accommodate respective solder connections between the solder pads and the arms.